

The Hawaiian Monk Seal

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The Hawaiian Monk Seal is named Ilio-holo-i-ka-uaua. They're also called the *Monachus Schauinslandi*. The first skull of the Monk Seal was found by Dr. Schauinsland. He found it on Laysan Island. If you are wondering what the name connects to, it means "Dog that runs through water". They're closest to its name derives from its round head with short hairs. It also has the appearance of the Medieval Friars. The Monk seals got separated from the regular seals about 15 million years ago. Now, they live alone.

The Monk seals are born with wooly black coats. They molt their coat all through the nursing period. After, the birth coat gets replaced with a juvenile pelage coat. This coat is a silver coat all over except for stomach, chest and the neck area. And then, that coat gets turned into a dull, gray color from the sunlight and sea water.

If you noticed, Monk seals have a lot of scars. Most of those scars are from shark attacks. Tiger sharks seem to be the most common attacker. Female Monk Seals are about 600-800 pounds. In height, they are about 8 feet tall. Male Monk Seals are about 300-400 pounds and about 7 feet tall. When pups are just born, they weigh about 30-40 pounds and they're about 40 inches tall. Right before they stop nursing, they are about 150-200 pounds. Monk Seal's life spans are about 25-30 years long.

Monk Seals are in Pinnipeds group. They separated from the other seals. The word 'Pinniped' mean fin-footed or feather in Latin. The Monk Seal's closest modern-day relative is the bear or dog. Monk Seals are being hunted by sharks as their main predator. Tiger Sharks are the most common out of all of the sharks. Fishing is also a problem. The Monk Seals would get caught in the line and sometimes, they can't survive.

Monk seals don't have ears, but holes. They hear through tiny holes in their head. If a Monk Seal eats a fish, they could get a disease from the fish's flesh. There is toxic in the flesh that could infect a Monk Seal. The bigger the fish is, the more toxin get ingested to the Monk Seal.